

THE ADJECTIVE

An adjective is a word added to a noun to qualify it. The adjective in Kongo takes its place after the noun ; but where special emphasis is desired, it may stand before its noun, -- in that case the article precedes it.

The adjective concords with the noun it qualifies, by the assumption of the prefix proper to the person, number, and class of that noun. Thus the adjective **ambote**, *good*, when qualifying the 5th class noun **kinkutu**, *a coat*, assumes the prefix **ki**; thus : -- **Kinkutu kiambote** : a good coat.

When qualifying **mankondo**, *plantains*, a plural noun of the 7th class, it assumes the prefix **ma**; thus : -- **Mankondo mambote** : good plantains.

When qualifying a personal pronoun 1st person plural, it assumes the prefix proper to a personal noun (or its pronoun), speaking in the first person plural; thus : -- **Oyeto twambote kweto** : we are good.

There are two series of prefixes which may be applied to adjectives, and according to the series of its prefix the adjective assumes a Primary or Secondary form.

THE PRIMARY FORM

This form is used when the adjective follows immediately after the noun it qualifies, as: --

Nti ambote :	A good tree.
Nti miambote :	Good trees.
Nzo ambote :	A good house.
Nzo zambote :	Good houses.

THE SECONDARY FORM

noun ; while the Secondary adjectives are used apart from their noun, as in English: -- *Mine, thine, hers, etc.*

<i>Primary</i>	<i>Secondary</i>
Eyayi nzo ame :	Eyayi yame :
This is my house.	This is mine.
Nti au usundidi :	Wau usundidi :
Their tree is the best.	Theirs is the best.
Zenga o nti ambote :	I wau wuwu wambote :
Cut down a good tree.	This one is good.

Batungidi o nzo ambote?	Elo, yambote :
Have they built a good house ?	Yes, a good one.

The Secondary form must be used, when for special emphasis the adjective precedes the verb ; as :-

E nzo ankulu kasolele, yayi yankulu nzo e ?

Elo, kana yankulu, kana yampa, eyayi kaka kazolele.

He has chosen the old house. This old house ?

Yes, whether old or new, this only he wants.

VERBAL ADJECTIVES

There is yet another and rare form of adjective, which states that the quality ascribed is excessive, too much, or too great ; it has also a verbal force, because the verb *to be* is always understood ; indeed, the series of prefixes proper to this form is identical with that applied to verbs in the perfect tense. This class of adjective has no formative prefix, but receives the characteristic prefix of the noun on its stem. There are but few adjectives of this class. The following have been noted, and their corresponding Primary forms are given beside them :-

<i>Verbal Excessive Forms</i>	<i>Primary Forms</i>
- nene : too large, too great	anene , great.
- luelo, kete : too small, too few	andwelo , small, few.
- ke :	no corresponding form.
- Ingi : too much, great, many	ingi , much, many, great.
- la : too long, high, deep, far	anda , long, high, etc.
- kufi : too short, low, near	ankufi , short, low, etc.
- va : too new	ampa , new.
- kulu : too old	ankulu , old.
- wete : too good	ambote , good.
- bi : too bad	ambi , bad.

E mbele yayi inene : This knife is too large.

O nlele wau uva : This cloth is too new.

Evata diandi dila : His town is too far off.

The difference between these adjectives and their ordinary forms will be seen on comparing the table following : --

kiwete, it is too good ; **kiawete**, good, nice.

kibi, it is too bad ; **kiambi**, bad.

